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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT**11 JANUARY 2018**

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Los Angeles – ICE Targets Convenience Stores in California amid Nationwide Immigration Action

(U) Immigration agents descended on nearly 100 7-Eleven stores across the country yesterday serving employment audit notices and conducting interviews to determine whether employees there are eligible to work in the US. In Southern California, four audit notices were served to 7-Eleven stores in the city of Los Angeles and one in Culver City. In Northern California, seven of the convenience stores were targeted with employment notices. No arrests were made during the operation in California. Overall, 98 stores in 17 states and Washington DC were targeted, including New York, Texas and Florida. Twenty-one people suspected of being in the country illegally were arrested nationwide and given notices to appear in immigration court.

SOURCE: 10 January 2018, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Los Angeles – Los Angeles Man Held in 'Swatting' Case Now Wanted in Canada

(U) A Los Angeles man accused of making a hoax phone call that caused a fatal police shooting in Kansas is now wanted in Canada for a similar call made a week before. Calgary police have issued arrest warrants for Tyler Rai Barriss, 25, accusing him of targeting the home of a young woman he contacted online on 22 December, six days before the deadly police shooting in Wichita, Kansas. The 911 call to Calgary police is similar to the emergency call to Kansas authorities that led to the killing of an innocent man. The Calgary Police Service alleges that Barriss called 911 and told an operator that he killed his father and was holding his mom and younger brother hostage, and gave the address of the intended swatting victim. Calgary tactical officers descended on the neighborhood of the address, evacuating the surrounding area before a woman at the home also called police to warn them she believed she was target of a fake call designed to produce a massive police response.

SOURCE: 10 January 2018, [Los Angeles Times](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – US Sees Spike in Homegrown Terrorism Cases

(U) Washington – Cases of homegrown terrorism in the US spiked in December 2017, marking the first rise in such incidents over a two-month span. US authorities arrested four individuals last month on charges of providing material support to the Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS), bringing to 150 the total number of cases related to homegrown terrorism since 2013. December marked the first attempted suicide bombing in the US inspired by ISIS, when a Bangladeshi national living in New York City detonated a pipe bomb at a bus terminal near Times Square, wounding four including himself. One day earlier, a Texas resident was arrested in Houston for attempting to provide material support to ISIS. In California, authorities disrupted a Christmas day attack plot on San Francisco's Pier 39. Violent extremists hoping to attack the US from within remain a top concern for the FBI in 2018. FBI Director Wray has said homegrown extremists and lone wolf attackers who don't have direct ties to radical Islamist groups pose the greatest domestic terrorism threat to the US.

SOURCE: 9 January 2018, [The Washington Free Beacon](#)

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UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**(U) District of Columbia – State Department Changes Travel Warning System**

(U) Washington – The State Department introduced an altered travel advisory system yesterday that tells people about trouble spots around the globe. The standard jargon at the State Department's website (travel.state.gov) used to be a "warning" – something serious that would suggest extra caution – or an "alert," which often was a red flag telling travelers about an election or the aftermath of a natural disaster. The revised system assigns levels of advice (1 to 4) about travel as it pertains to every country. None of levels prohibits travel. North Korea is the only country that's prohibited to Americans without special permission.

SOURCE: 10 January 2018, [Chicago Tribune](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) Mexico – Five Mexican States Get Highest US 'Do Not Travel' Warning**

(U) Mexico City — Five states in Mexico now have the sternest "do not travel" advisories under a revamped US State Department system unveiled yesterday, putting them on the same level as war-torn countries like Syria, Yemen and Somalia. The five states are Tamaulipas on the US border and Sinaloa, Colima, Michoacan and Guerrero on the Pacific coast. All the states are hotspots of drug cartel activity, either hosting trafficking routes or extensive drug-crop cultivation. The State Department had previously discouraged travel to all or part of those states but the new warnings are sterner, placing them on a level 4 warning, the highest level of potential danger. Mexico as a whole has a level 2 rating, meaning Americans should "exercise increased caution" because of concerns about crime. Mexico has 31 states, half of which are now under level 3 or 4 warnings.

SOURCE: 10 January 2018, [ABC News](#)

(U) Israel – ISIS Declares War on Hamas

(U) Rafah — A video released from ISIS' Sinai branch showed one former Gazan instructing another to kill a man accused of smuggling weapons to Hamas. The video exposed new levels of enmity between Hamas and the Sinai branch of the ISIS, injecting another layer of instability into an already volatile region. The video also accuses Hamas of betraying Palestinians by imprisoning extremists in Gaza, failing to prevent the American recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, and being supported by Iran.

SOURCE: 10 January 2018, [New York Times](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER**(U) Texas – Mexican Authorities Find Nearly \$1 Million in Cash Hidden on Bus**

(U) McAllen — The Mexican military said Tuesday that marines manning a highway checkpoint in the northern state of Tamaulipas discovered nearly \$1 million in cash hidden aboard a bus. The seizure was made 7 January during an inspection of a bus headed south from Reynosa, just across the border from McAllen, Texas, to the central Mexican city of Puebla. After noticing "irregularities in the internal structure of the bus," the marines brought in sniffer dogs that led them to 43 plastic packages containing a total of \$981,140. Mexico's drug cartels have taken to using intercity buses to smuggle their product to the US border and carry the proceeds from sales.

SOURCE: 9 January 2018, [Latin American Herald Tribune](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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